

# Cumberland Fire District Transitional Committee Meeting

Minutes

September 23, 2013

7:00pm

Hayden Library

The commissioners for the merged Cumberland Fire District in attendance – John McCoy NCFD, Michael Spaziani NCFD, James Leonard CFD, Dana Jones CFD, Arthur Cowell CHFD, James Scullin VFFD, Gerry Dion VFFD. Commissioners absent – Ron Champagne CHFD.

Meeting called to order at 7:02pm.

Motion to accept the minutes of the August meeting was made by James Leonard, seconded by John McCoy. Motion carried.

## Committee Reports

Financial//Legal –John McCoy said financials will be discussed under old business. Several questions are still outstanding, VFFD COLA, CHFD Blue Cross, NCFD Fire Truck, and pensions. Savings in administration and apparatus can be seen. The budget assumes that hydrant fees will remain the same. There is question if there will be any savings from VFIS with a merger.

Building/Apparatus – Dana Jones met regarding the town and buildings usage. Several issues were discussed. Relocate rescue, relocate rescue administration, where to place the fire marshal and chief's offices, phone trunking, rescue headquarters if the rescue stays would respond from the middle of town out. The Chairman suggested discussions include long and short term options.

Labor – Mike Spaziani spoke with union presidents. They are open to discussions. Working to set up a meeting with the unions.

Media – Jim Leonard stated he was still not getting any calls. Mike Spaziani suggested being proactive and reaching out to the papers to let them know where we stand with by-laws and drafting a budget.

## Old Business –

Public Safety Complex – discussion about centralizing a ladder truck with quint at CFD. An addition to the back of the building would be necessary, 20 ft of state property on the back of the building would be needed.

Entry Level Firefighter Testing – Chief Jackvony stated that advertisements were placed in ProJo, ProJo Jobs, Valley Breeze RIAFC, and Twitter. There were 8 qualified applicants who had FF Level 1, EMT Basic and a current PPA. The test will be conducted September 30 at 6pm at the Hayden Center of the Library

Blue Cross – Chief Finlay explained the advantages of having a combined health care option for 2014 and the savings involved. This would require all departments to agree the minimum is 50 enrolled. John McCoy stated that NCFD is currently enrolled in the plan. CHFD's contract is up November 1, 2013.

Mission Statement – Chief Finlay sent a draft after the chief's meeting. John McCoy stated there is a draft of the by-laws and the mission statement is at the beginning.

SOG's – the chief's will discuss combining the SOG's at their upcoming meetings.

New Business – Senator Ryan Pearson spoke about the ability to review the legislation and tweak it if necessary. He also referenced the cap on municipalities and how it might impact the new Fire District. He cautioned the Wardens not to lower the tax rates artificially and admonished them not to drain the surpluses. He suggested that any excess funding should be used to pay down debt. He said the Wardens had a serious responsibility and that this was a model and many communities were looking at Cumberland to see what happens.

#### Public Comment

Thank you for posting the Buildings meeting  
Suggest be proactive with newspapers.

Next Meeting - October 28, 2013 Cumberland Public - Library Hayden Rm 1

Motion was made by Jim Leonard to adjourn.

Seconded by Jim Scullin.

Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:40.